

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-0580/167506.02
Application No.: 09/900,059
Office Action Dated: September 17, 2004

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS

According to the most recent Office Action, dated September 17, 2004, claims 1-33 are pending. Claims 1-20 have been allowed and claims 21-33 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,918,223 (Blum et al.) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 21-33 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' rights to pursue these claims in a divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part application.

Claims 1-20 are presented in the exact form as allowed in the Office Action. Applicants wish to express gratitude for the Examiner's hard work and diligence in bringing claims 1-20 in condition for allowance.

Also, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner acknowledge the receipt and examination of Form PTO-1449 Modified, included with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 26, 2001. This form was not included with either the non-final or final Office Action. Additionally, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner acknowledge, under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e), the Applicant's benefit of an earlier filed Provisional Application No. 60/216,103, filed on July 6, 2000.

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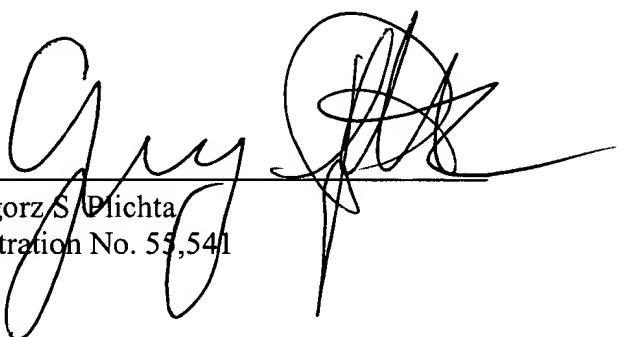
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CONCLUSION

Applicants wish to gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-20. Applicants believe that the present Amendment and Response is responsive to the Office Action and submit that the pending claims of the Application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience is earnestly solicited.

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